councils. Till permission is renewed they are not supposed to admit fresh batch of students.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Vegetarian and non-vegetarian label on food items

2940. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make it compulsory to label all food articles as vegetarian or non-vegetarian;

(b) if so, the purpose of such labelling; and

(c) by when this measure would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These labelling provisions will provide vital information about the nature of food being purchased by the consumer for consumption, in terms of whether the food is Vegetarian or Non-Vegetarian, for making an informed choice.

(c) The provisions of labelling of Non-Vegetarian food will come into force w.e.f. 4.10.2001. As regards labelling of Vegetarian food, the draft rules seeking to amend the PFA Rules 1955, were published in the Gazette of India on 16th May 2001, inviting comments from public. On the basis of comments received the draft final rules have been formulated and will be notified shortly.

Menace of Addiction to Prescription Drugs

2941. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the menace of addiction to prescription drugs is on the increase in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prescription drug abuse is more in the case of sedatives and cough syrups among students; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reports have been received especially from North Eastern States regarding the abuse of prescription drugs like cough syrups containing Codeine & Buprenorphine formulations. However, no report regarding the abuse of sedatives has been received so far.

(c) Following steps have been taken to curb the misuse of these drugs:

(i) *Codeine :* Codeine is a Schedule H drug to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. Considering the abuse potential of the formulations containing codeine, the sale of Phensedyl cough, linctus, Corex syrup and other habit forming drugs is restricted and these drugs available in the pharmacies are sold only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner.

To curb the misuse of these habit forming formulations. State Governments in North Eastern States have issued orders on the supply of these preparations permitting only limited quantities of these drugs to be kept by the stockist and by the retailers at a time in their shops.

Further, to curb the possible misuse of the cough linctus containing Codeine formulations in India, manufacturers have been directed to revise the composition. The cough linctus preparations now marketed in India have the following revised composition:

Each 5 Ml contains—

Codeine phosphate IP 10 Mg

Chlorpheniramine Maleate IP 4 mg

(ii) *Buprenorphine :* Buprenorphine, an opoid analgesic is Schdedule II drug. Preparations containing the drug are required to be sold only against the prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioners.

Keeping in view the growing trend of abuse of Buprenorphine, the following measures to curb the misuse of this drug have been taken by Drugs Controller General (India).

(a) The manufacturers of this drug have been asked to have minimum stockist outlets for sale of Buprenorphine formulation.

(b) The manufacturers have been asked to put the waring "the drug has potential for abuse and should be sold and used under strict medical supervision" in red colour on the label and carton of the formulation.

(c) Manufacturers have also been asked to consider the marketing of a combination of Buprenorphine with Nalaxone to reduce the abuse potentiality of Buprenorphine.

(d) DCG(I) has issued suitable instructions to the State Licensing Authorities requesting them to issue instructions to the Inspectorate staff to prevent the easy availability of the drug Buprenorphine through retail outlets and also to ensure that the drug marketed under different brand names is supplied only against the prescription of a registered medical practitioner only.

Release of Wagon orders to Public sector Wagon Manufacturing companies

2942. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have put a hold on release of wagon orders to public sector wagon industries pending enquiry into alleged use of non-specified steel in wagon manufacture;

(b) if so, whether Braithwaite, Burn Standard, Jessop and other PSUs are facing severe crisis because of this delay in order;

(c) the action taken by Government to ensure quality as well as timely placement of order; and

(d) the present order position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Railways have been unable to place wagon orders owing to outstanding orders and pending vigilance checks relating to use of mild steel in place of specified corten steel being supplied by Railways to the wagon manufacturing units.

(b)Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Railways has advised the Research Design and Standard Organisation (RDSO), Lucknow, the agency responsible for ensuring quality,